

TE MĀNUTANGA O TE MAHERE PAE TAWHITI

LAUNCHING THE LONG TERM

*Fees & Charges - 2024-25 and Policies,
related to the Long Term Plan 2024-34*



South
Waikato
District
Council

WHAT'S IN THIS DOCUMENT?

He aha kei roto i te pukapuka?

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- > **02** Consultation overview & Timeline
- > **03** Overview of Fees & Charges and Policies
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INTRODUCTION

He kupu whakataki

Council reviews its Long Term Plan (LTP) every three years. Generally, we consult on the LTP and all its components at one time. However, this year the LTP is delayed several months due to complexities caused by the changing legislation related to three waters. Under the Three Waters Reform, Council was required to remove these activities from our LTP planning, but now we need to put these activities back on our books.

Several of our Fees and Charges need adopting earlier than what we can now achieve with the full LTP, so we're splitting this component out and consulting now. In addition, several of our policies are ready for consultation, so we're including those now too.

The remaining portions of the LTP – activities, plans, budgets and key areas, will be out for consultation in the coming months. The benefit of this two-pronged approach is that it gives you a great opportunity to understand Council's proposed changes to the proposed Fees and Charges and underlying Policies.

Consultation closes on Friday 3 May 2024.

GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK



SEND TO

- > You can email your feedback to **info@southwaikato.govt.nz**
- > Please write Fees and Charges 2024-34 in the subject bar.



GO TO

- > You can complete the feedback form online.
- > You will also see the full Fees and Charges document and the draft Policies at this link.

Wednesday 3 April

**CONSULTATION
OPENS**



Friday 3 May

**CONSULTATION
CLOSES**



Wednesday 15 May

**HEARINGS &
DELIBERATIONS**



Wednesday 29 May

ADOPTION

OVERVIEW

Te tirohanga whānui

Most Council services are funded by a combination of fees and charges (when individuals benefit from the particular service) and rates. We propose several general shifts in our approach to Fees and Charges.

The Fees and Charges set three years ago in our previous LTP assumed a 2% inflation increase. We all know that inflation is a lot more than that now! So, we've had to increase fees to keep pace with today's more challenging economic environment.

We are moving towards recovering more of the costs from those who directly benefit from the service (ie, our Fees and Charges) where it is reasonable to do so. Some of our activities like libraries, pools and other leisure offerings will always require significant rate input.

Council needs to balance what is funded by rates and what is funded by those who benefit individually from the service.

Finally, depreciation must be factored into the charge so that facilities especially can be renewed and replaced.

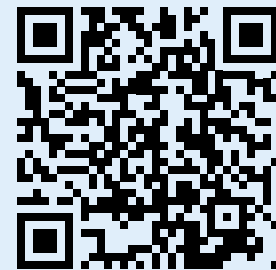
Several fees are increasing by between 10% and 15%, with some fees lower and/or higher than this. We haven't detailed all the proposed fees in this Consultation Document, but you can give feedback on any fee – just go to the full document.

FEES & CHARGES

Ngā whakautu

Several Fees and Charges have been highlighted in this document. These fees are either proposed to increase a lot, have high community interest, or a combination of both these factors. However, all proposed Fees and Charges are available for feedback. The full document is available on our website www.southwaikato.govt.nz or from our Council offices/libraries.

FIND MORE: Scan code for the full Fees & Charges



POLICIES

Ngā kaupapa here

Council must consult on policies that underpin the Long Term Plan. These policies have been reviewed and are ready for consultation so we decided to include these in this first round of LTP consultation alongside Fees and Charges.

- > There are no changes to the Rates Postponement Policy.
- > We are proposing a minor change to the Rates Remission Policy.
- > We are including an additional category to the Remission and Postponement of Rates on Māori Freehold Land Policy.
- > We made minor changes to the Treasury Management Policy that have no substantive change to the intent of the Policy.

Two of our policies have been completely overhauled. In this document we provide you with what has changed, why and the impact on ratepayers.

- > Significance and Engagement Policy
- > Revenue and Finance Policy

The Development Contributions Policy is not yet ready for consultation and will be included in the next round with the full LTP.

FIND MORE: Scan code for the full Policies

FEES & CHARGES

DOG CONTROL & REGISTRATION

He whakautu kuri

Dog registration fees are not proposed to increase substantially, but there is always a high level of interest in this space, so we thought we would highlight the main fees.

Fee	Current (2023-24)	Proposed (2024-25)
Standard registration fee (urban)	\$176	\$190
Standard registration fee (rural)	\$77	\$85
Selected owner (urban)*	\$88	\$90
First impounding	\$123	\$135
Second impounding	\$200	\$225
Third impounding	\$300	\$335
Seizure fee	\$200	\$225

** The selected owner fee has traditionally been half of the standard urban fee but is now proposed to be less than half of the standard fee. This is a great reason to enquire about selected dog ownership and get a property inspection booked in. Call Council on 07 885 0340. Strict criteria apply.*



Impound and seizure fees have all increased by 10% or more.

See Page 10 of the full Fees & Charges for all fees in this space.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Ngā pūtea koha

FIND MORE: Page 14 of the full Fees & Charges

Financial contributions apply across the district except for the Putāruru township that operates under Development Contributions. The formula for charging Financial Contributions sits in the District Plan. As part of its Long Term Plan, Council is reviewing its Development Contributions Policy, and this will be ready for consultation alongside the full Long Term Plan.

One of these fees is proposed to increase slightly and the remaining fees will be decreasing substantially. Council is proposing this to bring the Financial Contributions in line with the Development Contributions charged for development in Putāruru. By doing this, developers are not disadvantaged based on where they invest and develop.

Fee	Current (2023-24)	Proposed (2024-25)
Roading	\$4,506 (70% discount)	\$3,861 (75% discount)
Reserves	\$1,749 (no discount)	\$949 (50% discount)
Stormwater	\$0 (100% discount)	\$0 (100% discount)
Water	\$4,674 (no discount)	\$2,800 (40% discount)
Wastewater	\$7,686 (no discount)	\$4,534 (40% discount)
Car parking	\$5,595 (no discount)	\$5,662 (no discount)



CEMETERIES

He whakautu urupā

FIND MORE: Page 7 of
the full Fees & Charges

Several fees in this area are proposed to increase substantially.

Fee	Current (2023-24)	Proposed (2024-25)
Right of burial (reserve plot) – adult	\$605	\$870
Right of burial (reserve plot) – child (under 12)	\$405	\$670
Right of burial (reserve plot) – ashes	\$160	\$425
Adult interment (burial)	\$675	\$1,640
Child (under 12) interment (burial)	\$440	\$615
Ashes interment (burial)	\$150	\$275
Additional charges for Saturday, Sunday and statutory holidays (adult and child)	\$240	\$1,090
Disinterment (exhumation)	\$675	\$3,280
Re-interment (reburial)	\$675	\$1,650

Other fees in this area such as reserving plots are not increasing.

Council's contractor prices have increased in line with these actual costs. The fees must increase so we don't add additional burden to rates and all ratepayers. Our proposed fees are comparable with, and in many cases lower than, our neighbouring councils.

SOLID WASTE

Whakautu parahanga

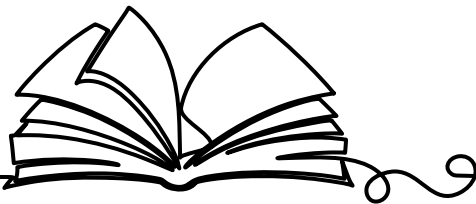
FIND MORE: Page 28 of the full Fees & Charges

Solid waste disposal fees always generate a level of interest. Key proposed changes are:

- > An increase in the standard per tonne fee from \$340 to \$380. The Government waste levy has increased, and we need to pass on that increase. On the plus side, Council gets waste levy funding back for recycling and waste management initiatives for the community.
- > We are increasing our minimum fee from \$5 to \$10. This increase aligns with the actual cost of managing waste and ensuring that those who use the service pay a reasonable portion, as opposed to placing the burden on ratepayers.
- > The minimum fee for greenwaste is retained at \$5.

Replacement wheelie bins are both incurring a \$5 increase. We have also introduced some new charges regarding replacement bin lids (at \$15), replacement wheels (at \$5 per wheel) and replacement axle (\$5). Sometimes bins are placed incorrectly at the kerbside and as a result the truck can damage the bin or parts of the bin. This replacement cost (when it is householder fault) should be borne by the householder, not ratepayers.

Other fees in this space are proposed to increase by a small amount.



LIBRARY

Wharepukapuka

FIND MORE: Page 17 of the full Fees & Charges

Library charges are increasing by a small amount to align with the shift to charging people who benefit from the service. The good news is that we are removing the fee for overdue books, so no more fines!

PENSIONER HOUSING

Kāinga Penihana

All fees in this area are detailed here

Rents for Pensioner Housing are currently around 55% of market rates. Under our Revenue and Finance Policy this activity is primarily funded by rentals (ie, those who benefit from the service). The cost of servicing and maintaining the Pensioner Housing outweighs the rental income we receive from tenants. We can't continue to maintain our housing stock to an appropriate level at the current low rental income. Rent levels must be set to recover Council's full cost of providing housing to the occupiers. This includes operations, repairs, maintenance and depreciation*.

> Proposed increases

For the 2024-25 year we propose to increase rentals to within 15% of market rates. These increases are reflected below.

Fee	Current (2023-24)	Proposed (2024-25)
1-bedroom unit (per week)	\$155	\$225
2-bedroom unit (per week)	\$195	\$305

All fees in this area are detailed above.

We know this is a large increase. Based on state pension rates, most people living in Pensioner Housing, will be around 6% to 7.5% worse off (around 80% of our tenants) if they are eligible for the Accommodation Supplement from Ministry of Social Development (MSD). Unfortunately, single people in 2-bedroom units will be up to 27% worse off (around 20% of our tenants) (with the supplement).

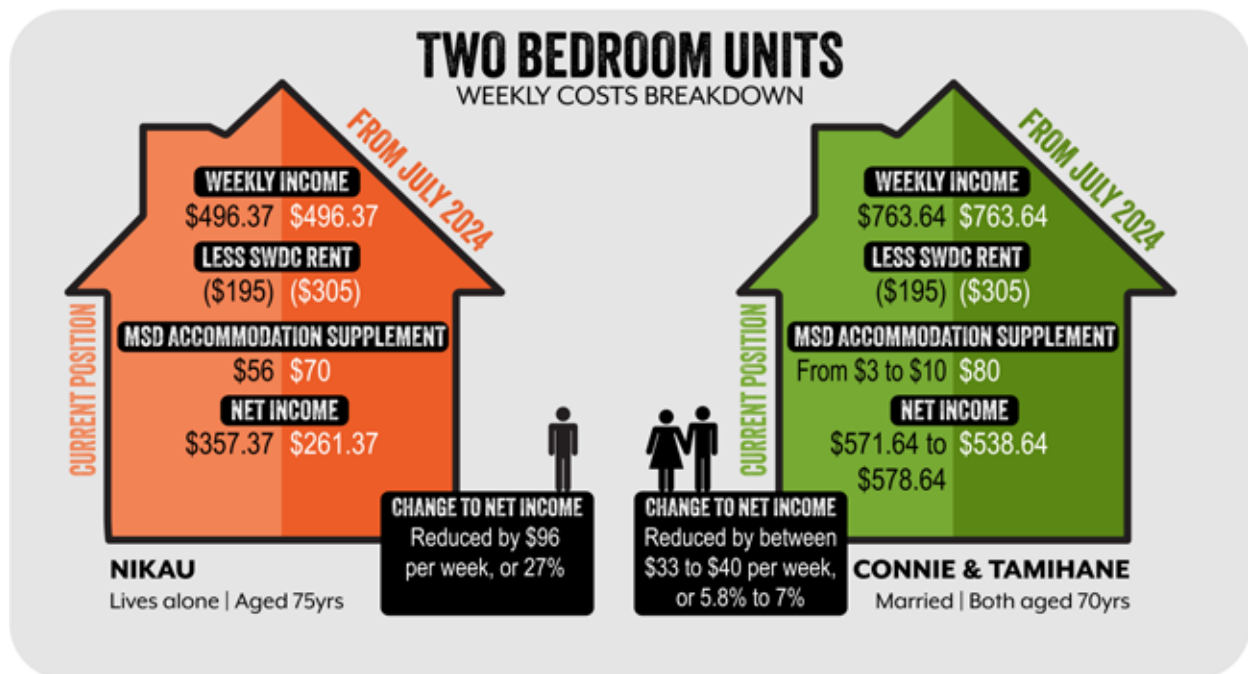
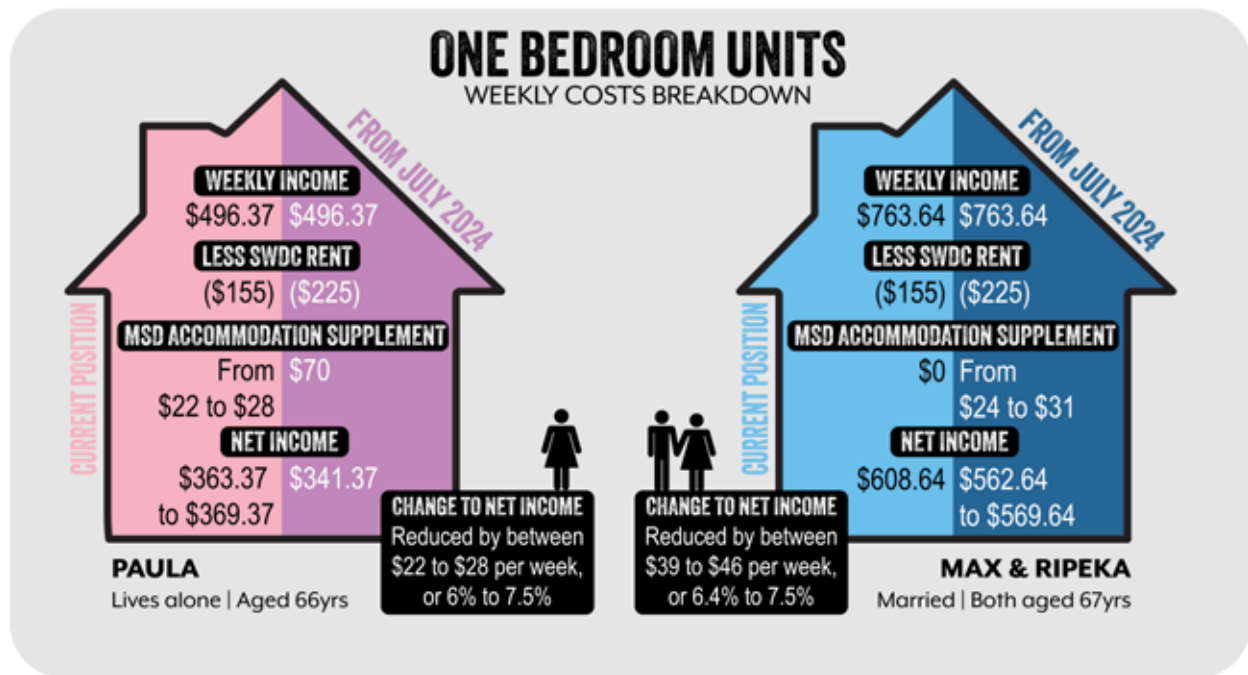
Council is looking at how to direct and support existing tenants to access the Accommodation Supplement that is available from MSD.

Seeking specific feedback: Council is seeking specific feedback on whether we should discount the rent for single people living in two-bedroom units at a proposed \$70 discount rate. Under the current proposal, single tenants living in a two-bedroom unit will be 27% worse off. A discount will mean the net impact aligns with other tenants (6% to 7.5% worse off).

* Depreciation is a method of spreading the cost of large assets over time to provide for the future renewal of the asset. Most assets lose their value over time through wear and tear or becoming out of date. This service is currently not recovering its depreciation.

Council staff will consider various future scenarios for our housing portfolio, including sale, moving to a specialist housing provider, setting up a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) and other options to enable the long-term delivery and sustainability of housing. Council will also review its Pensioner Housing Policy and eligibility criteria as part of this process. Further consultation will occur following the outcome of this investigation. We're just signalling here that this full assessment is underway.

Let's meet some example people who will help illustrate various circumstances.



LAND INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

Manatū whakatakanga whakaaturanga whenua

There has been a moderate increase in LIMs, along with a simplification of fees.

Fee	Current (2023-24)	Proposed (2024-25)
Land Information Memorandum (LIM) - within 10 working days	\$256	\$265
Land Information Memorandum (LIM) - within 3 working days	\$417	\$425
Land Information Memorandum (LIM) - vacant site (10 working days)	\$192	n/a
Land Information Memorandum (LIM) - vacant site (3 working days)	\$321	n/a
Large or complex properties. Enquiries regarding detailed responses or replies to multiple enquiries	Actual and reasonable costs	Actual and reasonable costs
Cancellation fees – standard LIM only if request cancelled within 48 hours of application.		50%

All fees in this area are detailed here.

WATER SUPPLY

Wai whakawhiwhi

FIND MORE: Page 38 of the full Fees & Charges

Metered charges are increasing to ensure appropriate cost recovery for metered users on Council's water supply network. Over the past years the targeted rate for water supply has increased to keep pace with the cost of providing a safe, healthy and compliant water supply service. Metered charges have not increased by the same amount. The proposed increase (from \$1.25 per cubic metre to \$1.50 per cubic metre) is to restore the equilibrium across all users of the network making it fairer for everyone.

SWIMMING POOLS

Whakautu puna kaukau

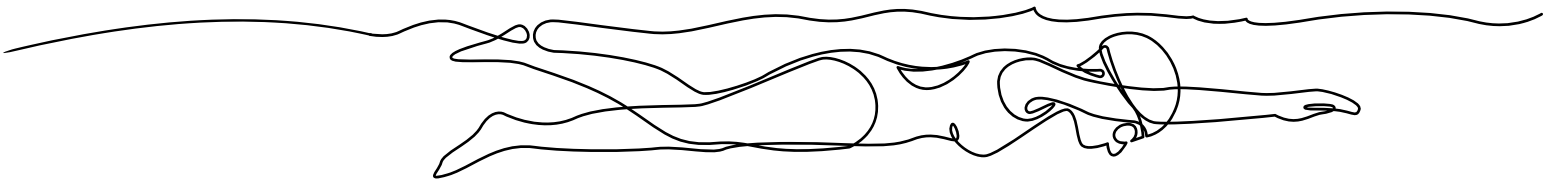
FIND MORE: Page 33 of
the full Fees & Charges

Like libraries and other community facilities, swimming pools contribute significantly to the social fabric of our community and are unlikely to ever be 100% self-supporting. However, we do need to be mindful of the balance between fees and rates. We are proposing a general increase across all the fees in this space, many less than 5%, but there are some upwards of 10%.

We are proposing higher increases in the hireage space:

- > School usage/hire (per hour) – from \$48 to \$60, an increase of 25%.
- > Community room parties/functions up to three hours – from \$30 to \$40, an increase of 33%

Again, these proposed increases are to ensure that people who use the pools contribute towards costs where it is reasonable.

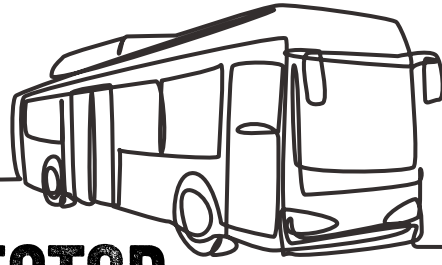


RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Penapena rawa

FIND MORE: Page 25 of
the full Fees & Charges

There is around a 10% increase in resource consent fees across the fee structure. This is in line with recovering costs through people who benefit directly, where it is reasonable to.



SOUTH WAIKATO CONNECTOR

Waikato Regional Council Rate

The Urban Connector bus service (the bus service that does six trips around Tokoroa each weekday) is managed by the Waikato Regional Council (WRC).

It is currently co-funded by our Council (49%) and Waka Kotahi (the New Zealand Transport Agency) (51%). WRC is proposing to fund all public transport services (including the Tokoroa circuit) from July 2025 through a new regional council rate.

This would mean that the South Waikato District Council would no longer have to fund public transport, from July 2025. Essentially the portion of the cost of the service currently funded by us would shift from our rates bill to the regional council's rates bill.

Our Council and community would still be involved in decisions on public transport through the Waikato Regional Transport Committee.

You can find out more about the Regional Council's proposal, including how to make a submission in the Waikato Regional Council's draft LTP Consultation Document. Scan the QR code.



Their consultation is open from 2 April to 2 May.

TOKOROĀ AIRFIELD

He whakautu papa rererangi Tokoroā

All fees in this area are detailed here

We are proposing a new annual landing fee for multiple user/club aircraft and proposing to increase several fees to move towards recovering costs through those who use the facility rather than ratepayers because it is reasonable to do so.

Survey results told us that most residents want to explore other options for the airfield and surrounding land. Work is underway for future consideration by Council and consultation with the community.

Fee	Current (2023-24)	Proposed (2024-25)
Closure of runway for any event – weekends and Statutory Holiday (aviation event) (per day)	\$225	\$260
Closure of runway for any event – weekends and Statutory Holiday (non-aviation event) (per day)	\$440	\$1,000
Closure of runway for any event – weekdays (aviation event) (per day)	\$155	\$180
Closure of runway for any event – weekdays (non-aviation event) (per day)	\$300	\$550
Commercial use of runway for aerial application of solid fertiliser and sprays (per tonne royalty on amount of material spread)	\$5.30	\$6.20
Commercial use of airport grounds (per day if runway not closed)	\$300	\$500
Notams (Notice to pilots – runway closures)	\$77	\$77
Use of airfield by the Model Flying Club (per year)	\$355	\$500
Landing charges for private aircraft – casual users	\$10/day	\$10/day
Administration fee – charged when casual landing charges are not paid and invoicing is required	\$27/day	\$27/day
Annual landing fee – Single User Aircraft	\$182	\$250
Annual Landing Fee: Multiple User / Club Aircraft		\$750

POLICIES

SIGNIFICANCE & ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Kaupapa Here Whai Hiringa me te Pāhekohekotanga

The *Significance and Engagement Policy* provides guidance on how and when Council should engage with its community on significant issues, proposals, assets, decisions and activities.

Last year we proposed changes to our Significance and Engagement Policy. The key proposed change was to remove reference to consultation being required when a 'threshold of 5% of total operating expenditure' was reached. Given escalating costs, this percentage threshold is unrealistic in today's monetary terms.

This threshold amount doesn't control Council spend, it simply guides a financial threshold of when and how Council should consult with its community. Following consultation, we've taken another look at the policy and rewritten the document to allow Council flexibility to respond to the current challenging economic environment and make the document fit for purpose, including no reference to a threshold amount.

Council needs to balance the time it spends on consulting with its community with getting on with the work delivering our services. Council can also initiate consultation for projects that don't necessarily meet the Policy guidance.

The full draft Significance and Engagement Policy is available on our website on the Consultation page.

RATING & TREASURY POLICIES

Ērā atu kaupapa here

The *Remission and Postponement of Rates on Māori Freehold Land Policy* has been amended to cater to an emerging situation for very small blocks of land. The change is to enable users of Māori Freehold Land, usually neighbouring farmers, to apply for a partial rates remission where a small block of land is used as part of a farm and has a rating valuation more than the value that would be attributed if the land was part of the farm property itself.

We made minor changes to the *Treasury Management Policy* that have no substantive change to the intent of the Policy.

The *Rates Postponement Policy* has been reviewed and there are no substantive changes.

There is a very small change to wording in the *Rates Remission Policy*, linked to the proposal to replace the 'additional unit rate charge' with multiple UAGCs. There is no actual change to value of remissions. It's just a terminology change.



REVENUE & FINANCE POLICY

Ngā Kaupapa Here Moni me te Tuku Tahua Pūtea

We have rewritten our *Revenue and Finance Policy* to make it clearer for the reader and consistent with better practice.

The key changes include:

> **Removing set percentages for our services**

Previously we stated in our policy for example that the emergency management function would be 100% funded by rates, libraries would be 92% funded by rates and 8% by user charges and the events centre would be 80% funded by rates and 20% by user fees. We have removed all these specific percentage references to assist flexibility. We have replaced this with reference to **primary** source and a **secondary** source.

> **Operations funded by rates alone**

Operations will no longer, as far as possible, be funded by debt. Readers may recall the Annual Plan last year where Council talked about the fact that we have historically funded operations in an unsustainable manner. The proposed policy addresses that.

> **Decision tree**

We have improved how projects are identified, prioritised and progressed through a series of gates. Only projects that align with our core services will be prioritised and funding options investigated. Rates funding will be a last resort after grants, user charges, debt and depreciation are considered.

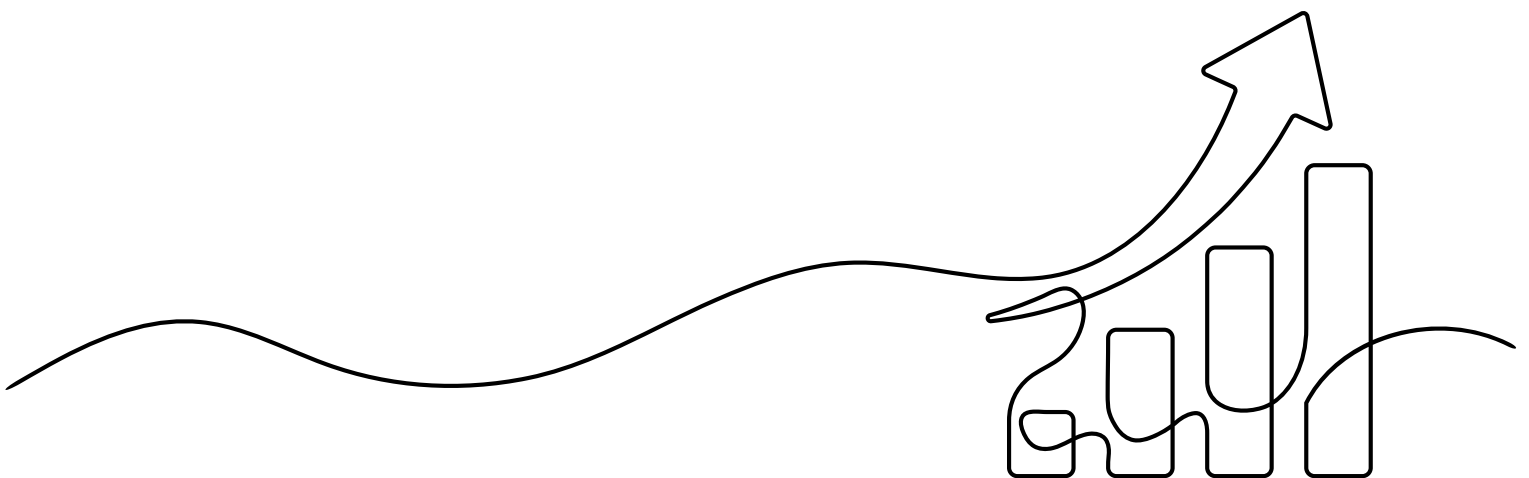
> **Debt funding**

We have committed to policy that debt funding is only used for new assets or intergenerational assets not operational maintenance.

> **Removing some targeted rates**

We had several targeted rates such as ward rates, recycling drop off zones, hall rates and additional unit charges. A bit more on these, alongside:

- > Ward rates will be removed, and the cost put on the general rate. This causes minimal impact for ratepayers and is primarily an administrative saving, so more effective and efficient.
- > Hall rates will be removed, and the cost put on the general rate. Again, the impact is minimal for ratepayers. This change also supports Council's goal to better streamline the number of facilities. We will be signalling through the LTP Consultation Document (coming soon) that we simply can't afford to have multiple similar facilities in every town or area. We need to rationalise and deliver fewer modern, fit-for-purpose facilities.
- > Recycling drop off zones – this targeted rate will be removed and included in the general rate. This charge is not for household collection service, it is for the management and maintenance of the recycling drop off zones. These are used by our rural community but also urban that have an overflow of recycling.
- > Additional unit charge has been removed and replaced with a second (third, and subsequent) Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC). There will be no change in the amount charged, it's just a terminology tidy-up.



SUBMISSION FORM

Puka tukunga

Council's consultation process is public, and your comments will be available for public inspection. Your submission won't be returned to you. If you require a copy, please make one before submitting. You may include additional sheets of paper.

Council is asking specific questions on several things throughout this Consultation Document. These are outlined below. Your feedback is very welcome.

You can have your say on any of the Fees and Charges and/or Policies. All supporting documents are available online at www.southwaikato.govt.nz. Click on Consultation.

CONSULTATION CLOSES
Friday 3 May 2024

SENDING US YOUR FEEDBACK

By hand: drop your submission in to the Council offices in Putāruru or Tokoroa or to the Dog (i-Site) in Tīrau

By mail: Freepost Authority Number 201,
Fees & Charges 2024-25,
South Waikato District Council, Torphin Crescent,
Tokoroa, 3420

By email: info@southwaikato.govt.nz
Please write Fees & Charges 2024-25 in
the subject bar.

Online: www.southwaikato.govt.nz/our-council/consultation



Q1

Do you have any comments about any of our proposed Fees & Charges?

Please note the title of the Fee. You may provide feedback on any number of our proposed fees.

Do you have any comments about any of our proposed policies?

Please note the title of the Policy. You may provide feedback on any of the proposed policies.

Q2

Space to answer on the reverse of this page >

NAME:

SURNAME:

STREET ADDRESS:

TOWN:

EMAIL:

PHONE:

If your submission is on behalf of an organisation, please identify:

Do you wish to speak to your submission at the hearings?

YES | NO



SUBMISSION FORM

You may include additional sheets of paper with this form.

QUESTION 1:

QUESTION 2:

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Visit our website for the supporting documents

- > Full Fees & Charges 2024-25
- > Significance & Engagement Policy
- > Revenue & Finance Policy
- > Remission and Postponement of Rates on Māori Freehold Land Policy
- > Treasury Management Policy
- > Rates Postponement Policy
- > Rates Remission Policy



Come along to a drop-in session

- > Monday 22 April
Tokoroa Library, three sessions: 10-noon, 1pm-3pm and 4pm-6pm
- > Tuesday 23 April
Putāruru Office/Library, three sessions: 10-noon, 1pm-3pm and 4pm-6pm
- > Wednesday 24 April
Tīrau Office/Library, three sessions: 10-noon, 1pm-3pm and 4pm-6pm

